

Appl. No. 09/911,149

Amdt. Dated June 1, 2005

Reply to Office Action of March 4, 2005

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed March 4, 2005. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-8 and 36 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 6, and 36 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 6, and 36 have been amended, and Claims 9-35 and 37 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) for including reference numerals not mentioned in the description. Specifically, reference numeral 408 and 712 were included in FIGS. 4 and 7, respectively, but were not mentioned in the description. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to include these reference numerals.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objections is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,845,449 (Carman et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 relates to method of establishing a secure communication channel for information flow between two or more computers communicating via an interconnected computer network, and independent Claim 36 relates to a computer-readable medium containing computer executable code for instructing a computer to carry out the method of independent Claim 1. Independent Claims 1 and 36 each include the steps of receiving a security association data structure from one or more computers via the interconnected computer network, and storing the received security association data structure in a memory region having a specific memory address value associated

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therewith, and each recites, *inter alia*, assigning the specific memory address value as a security parameter index value associated with the received security association data structure.

Carman et al. relates to a system and method for detecting and correcting errors using an authentication mechanism, and discloses receiving security association (SA) payloads, responding with the lowest number transform that supports the SA, and generating a suite of SAs, one for each common authentication gear between communicants (col. 17, ll. 3-53). Carman et al. further discloses sending a security protocol index (SPI) and SA information to a PF_KEY module for storage in a security policy database (SPD) and a security association database (SAD), respectively (col. 17, ll. 57-60).

Hence, it is clear that Carman et al. fails to disclose, or even remotely suggest, at least the above-noted feature of independent Claims 1 and 36. Namely, Carman et al. fails to disclose at least assigning the specific memory address value as a security parameter index value associated with the received security association data structure. Rather, what discloses is sending an SPI to the SPD for storage. Nothing at all is disclosed in Carman et al. regarding the assignment of a value to an SPI, let alone assigning a specific memory address value as an SPI value.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Carman et al. and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0184487 (Badamo et al.), Claims 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Carman et al., Badamo et al., and RFC791, and Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Carman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,055,236 (Nessett et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As regards independent Claim 6, this claim, similar to independent Claims 1 and 36, recites, *inter alia*, assigning the specific memory address value as a security parameter

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index value associated with the received security association data structure.

Badamo et al. relates to a network gateway device and method for receiving and transmitting secure data, RFC791 is the DARPA Internet Program Protocol Specification, and Nessett et al. relates to a system and method for locating network services with distributed network address translation. However, none of Badamo et al., RFC791, or Nessett et al. are understood to make up for at least the above-noted deficiency of Carman et al. Namely, none of these citations discloses, or even remotely suggests, assigning the specific memory address value as a security parameter index value associated with the received security association data structure, as recited in independent Claims 1, 6, and 36.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully solicits reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1, 6, and 36 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

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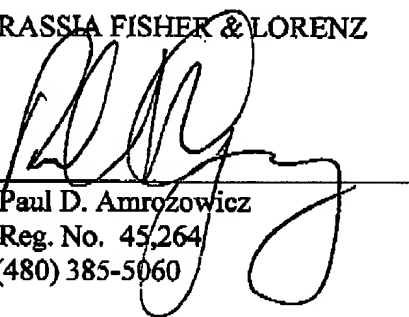
If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 1, 2005

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